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EDITORIALS

Time Is Short For Congressional Choice

The word that the paper ballots to be used in the congressional runoff where voting machines are employed will have the names rotated is encouraging news for Congressman Armistead Selden and the Sixth District.

Printers of the runoff ballots say that the order of the candidates will be switched so that each of the nine will appear first on as many ballots as his opponent.

This is as it should be, but until the announcement was made by the ballot publishers there was no certainty that those used in machine precincts would be other than to list the candidates by alphabetical order. If that had been the case Congressman Selden's name would have been last on the ballot.

There is now one week remaining in the current campaign to select eight of the present nine congressmen to represent this state in the next Congress.

The decision on which of the nine congressmen to drop is not easy. Voters should give serious thought to this matter for their obligation is a double one in this voting. Not only will they decide on the state's congressional delegation, but in doing so they will pave the way for reshuffling the state's congressional district. The low man of the nine running not only will lose his seat in Congress but the district he represents will be set up for shuffling among the remaining eight.

While the members of the state's delegation have sought to make themselves known, it is a most difficult job and we doubt that the general public is thoroughly familiar with all of the present congressmen, their status and present assignments.

Committee assignments are important not only to the congressman, but to the state and district he represents. These assignments are tied directly to seniority. The longer a man serves in Congress the more important are his positions on the important House committees.

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following capsule review of the present delegation is offered:

First District—Frank Boykin, has served continuously since 1935; member of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, chairman of the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife, committee on Veterans Affairs, subcommittees on Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey and Navigation and housing.

Second District—George Grant, has served since 1938; member of the Committee on Agriculture, chairman of the subcommittee on forests, subcommittees on cotton, oilseeds and rice, chairman of subcommittee on domestic marketing and member of subcommittee on family farms.

Third District—George Andrews, has served since 1934; member of Committee on Appropriations, subcommittees of defense, foreign operations, chairman of subcommittee on general government matters.

Fourth District—Kenneth Roberts, has served since 1961; member of Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, chairman of subcommittee on health and safety.

Fifth District—Albert Rains, has served since 1945; member of Committee on Banking and Currency, chairman of subcommittee on

Housing and member of joint committee on defense production.

Sixth District—Armistead Selden, has served since 1953; member of Committee on Foreign Affairs, subcommittee on Europe and chairman of subcommittee on inter-American affairs.

Seventh District—Carl Elliott, has served since 1949; member of Rules Committee.

Eighth District—Robert Jones, has served since 1947; member of Committee on Government Operations, and public works, subcommittees of flood control, roads, federal aid highway program and chairman of subcommittee on public buildings and grounds.

Ninth District—George Huddleston Jr., has served since 1955; member of Committee on Armed Services, District of Columbia, subcommittee of Central Intelligence Agency.

In order for the vote to count, the ballot must be marked for eight candidates. In this choice, throughout the Sixth District, one certain vote should go for Armistead Selden. Seven other choices must be made for this ballot to be valid.

A week remains in which to make the decision on the other seven.